

# THE BRIDGETOWN READER

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**FREE**

**Jan. 23  
2026**

**VOL. 18  
Issue 3**



## Unfinished Business Renovations

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### School Lunch Changes

The Nova Scotia School Lunch Program is making targeted changes to improve meal quality, reduce waste and better match how lunches are prepared and delivered. New lunches coming to all schools include pork and vegetarian egg roll bowls, chicken fingers and a gluten-friendly cornbread that can replace other bread options.

To help ensure consistent quality, menus are being tailored to whether lunches are prepared on-site or delivered to schools.

For schools with lunch delivery, meals that transport well, like barbecued chicken drumsticks and glazed meatloaf, will be added. Some existing meals have also been adjusted to have sides that transport better, like whole apples and oranges. New menu items in schools where lunches are made on-site include grilled cheese with tomato soup, and pork quesadillas.

The Province is partnering with Canadian company Friendlier to pilot reusable containers in 34 schools that serve about 26,000 lunches a week. The program will start at the end of February.

The company, with partners in more than 200 locations across Canada, will supply clean containers for lunches and collect used containers for professional cleaning. Containers can be reused up to 100 times and are recycled by Friendlier at the end of their lifecycle.

**Kudos to the U16 AAA Valley Wildcats Hockey Program team** who recently dropped off a generous donation of \$1500 to Valley Regional Hospital Foundation's Cancer Care for Patients Fund, raised through the team's Pink in the Rink event held in October. These funds help the Cancer Patient Navigator support patients with transportation to treatment and other costs that can come with a cancer diagnosis—making a meaningful difference when it's needed most.

### NS Power Supports West Dalhousie Hall

On January 13 Nova Scotia Power presented West Dalhousie Community Hall with a \$15,000 donation toward the Hall's solar panel installation project.

During and after this summer's wildfire, Nova Scotia Power was deeply involved in efforts in the community. NS Power disconnected power when required, replaced damaged poles and lines, restored service as quickly as conditions allowed, and ensured electrical safety throughout the recovery process.

The posting from the Hall says, "This donation will contribute towards the installation of solar panels at the community hall, helping reduce operating costs, improve energy reliability during power outages, and strengthen the long term sustainability of this important community space. Investing in renewable energy will help ensure the hall can continue to serve residents of West Dalhousie and surrounding communities for years to come."

### Cupid Candy Gram

Do you have a friend or family member working in or staying at the Soldiers Memorial Hospital? Why not remember them with a Cupid Candy Gram\*? To do so, go to the Carousel Gift shop at the hospital between 10am and 4pm daily, Monday to Friday where you can fill out an information card with the recipient's name and location at SMH and complete the message tag, then the Auxiliary member will deliver your gift on or before Valentine's Day. You may also send it anonymously. Cost is \$5, cash please. Deadline to order is Friday February 6. Proceeds go to SMH Auxiliary projects! Happy Valentine's Day!

\*(Gift Bag of sweets. Deliveries within SM Hospital, Primary Care Clinic, and Middleton & Area Family Medical only.)

## THE BARN

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## Edelweiss Inn & Restaurant

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**BE OUR VALENTINE**

### Valentines Day Dinner Event

**Edelweiss Restaurant will be open Saturday, February 14th for your dining pleasure.**

Featuring a three-course set menu.  
Seating at 3:00, 5:00 & 7:00 | \$58 per person

**First Course** | Traditional Wedding Soup  
**Second Course** | Chicken Cordon Bleu  
served with seasonal vegetables and roasted potatoes  
or **Classic Beef Goulash**  
accompanied by braised red cabbage  
and house-made spätzle  
**Third Course Dessert** | Tiramisu  
or Traditional Black Forest Cake

**Reservations are required**  
**EdelweissInnNovaScotia.com**



Restaurant is temporarily closed and will re-open February 12th  
Winter hours are Thursday to Monday from 4:00 - 8:00

2433 Mount Hanley Road, Mount Hanley, Nova Scotia  
**902-825-2588**

### FireSmart Grants Available

Applications for the Wildfire Community Preparedness Day open Nov. 1, 2025 and close Jan. 31, 2026. Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is a national campaign that encourages citizens to take actions that increase their home, neighbourhood and community's resilience to wildfire. Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is always observed on the first Saturday in May. In 2026, it will take place on Saturday, May 2. Residents of all ages all over the country are encouraged to come together at any time from May to October to host events and work on projects that raise awareness of wildfire risk and increase their resilience to it. Groups can also apply for a \$500 award to fund their Prep Day events. FireSmart™ Canada, in collaboration with the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR), Co-operators and the Provincial and Territorial wildfire agencies supports this annual event by offering the \$500 award. In 2025, FireSmart Canada awarded more recipients than ever before with 404 neighbourhoods. Info and applications at <https://firesmartcanada.ca/programs/wildfire-community-preparedness-day/>

**The Bridgetown Reader is published weekly on Friday by TAR Publishing. The deadline for submissions to our next issue is noon Monday January 26.**

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# Community Calendar

**Fri. Jan. 23, 10:00am Weekly Tai Chi** classes at the Centrelea Community Hall, 3495 Highway 201. Bring indoor slippers or shoes. Drop ins welcome. Good for balance, posture and relieving stress. Instructor Jamie Edwards of Empty Hand Martial Arts. \$75 for 10 week pass that does not expire. More info @ 902-448-2483 \*

**Fri. Jan. 23, 10-11:30am Community Coffee**, every Friday @ Lower Granville Hall (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Come out and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and bring a snack to share if you are able. Meet a neighbour, make a new friend. Everyone is welcome. \$2/person donation for the Hall.

**Fri. Jan. 23, 4-8:00pm and Sat. Jan. 24, 10am-3:00pm Clothing Giveaway** at West Dalhousie Community Hall, 4868 West Dalhousie Rd. Sponsored by Annapolis Valley Frugal Moms. Clothing for men, women and kids as well as household items. Free meal noon on Saturday.

**Fri. Jan. 23, 6:30pm** The Salvation Army presents **Game Night** at 17 Rink St., Bridgetown. Join us for a night full of fun, laughter, and friendly competition. Free. All ages welcome.

**Fri. Jan. 23, 7:00pm Karaoke Night** at the Bridgetown Legion, 22 Jeffrey Street. Kitchen and bar open.

**Fri. Jan. 23, 7:00pm Jam Session** every Friday Evening at the Youngs Cove Community Hall, 5407 Shore Rd. \*

**Fri. Jan. 23, 7-9:00pm or later! Weekly Music** – The Annapolis Royal Legion, Branch #21 will host **The Fog**. Join us for some great music weekly with no cover charge! Don't forget that we have Happy Hour each Friday from 5:30-7:00pm and cocktail specials each Friday and Saturday!

The Chase the Ace Draw on behalf of the Annapolis Royal Community Centre will be held each week at 8pm. Please check the Annapolis Royal Legion Facebook site for updated. All members and guests are welcome.

**Fri. Jan. 23, 7:00pm Barter Bases Session: Women in the Fur Trade**, an Annapolis Valley Folk School event at 1963 Clarence Road, Clarence. If all you have ever heard about the fur trade in Canada was about voyageurs and coureurs de bois, come and find out about the essential role played by women. Join us for an evening of learning about our great country. Tickets Available here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/barter-based-session-women-in-the-fur-trade-tickets-1980098627297>

If this is your first time attending a barter-based skills-trade class, note that attendees are encouraged to bring an item(s) to offer in exchange for the knowledge shared in addition to any supplies required for the class. Our facilitator's preferred items are jams and pickles.

There is no fee associated with this ticket but please do not just indicate "coming" on the event - we've found this is not an accurate capture of attendees. If you have any difficulty registering, you can send us an email at [avfolkschool@gmail.com](mailto:avfolkschool@gmail.com) or message us on facebook. Looking forward to seeing you!

**Sat. Jan. 24, 9am-1:00pm Annapolis Royal Winter Farmers Market**

indoors at St. Luke's Parish Hall (340 St. George St, Annapolis Royal, accessible from both St George St and Victoria St)!

**Sat. Jan. 24, 12:30pm T & D Kitchen Jam Saturdays**, 1407 Inglisville Road, Lawrencetown at the Community Hall. All are welcome! Doors open 12:30, music from 1:30-4:30. \$2 for entry. Snacks, tea /coffee are included in the price. \*

**Sun. Jan. 25, 10am-3:00pm Hometown Maker's Market** at Brickton Community Hall, 12062 Hwy # 1. We will have vendor tables with homemade items. Canteen will be open with refreshments. There will be activities going on throughout the day such as -a kids corner with face painting, make your own valentine's card, bracelet making and treats. Plus, Annapolis County Recreation will be set up with outdoor activities from 10-11:30am. Make your own smore's with outdoor fire pit from 11am-1pm. Admission is free but free will donation is appreciated.

**Sun. Jan. 25, 11:00am Bridgetown Baptist** continues to worship weekly. Join us on Sundays at the Royal Canadian Legion, 20 Jeffery St., for a joyful time of worship. 902-665-2506. 10:30 for prayer and 11am for worship! [bridgetownbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetownbaptist@gmail.com).

**Sun. Jan. 25, 11:00 am Worship Service.** Celebrate God's presence with us at St. George & St. Andrew United Church, 393 St. George St. Annapolis Royal 902-532-7954. Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds. \*

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## Annapolis Royal and Bridgetown Taxi Marks 14 Years of Service

Annapolis Royal and Bridgetown Taxi is celebrating 14 years of service this April, continuing its commitment to reliable, professional transportation. With over 45 years of combined experience in the travel industry, Brian offers competitive, cost-effective fares with excellent, personalized service.

Rides are offered throughout the province, including trips to the Halifax Airport, medical appointments in Kentville and Halifax, and local journeys. There are no additional charges for extra passengers. Customers can pay by debit, credit card, e-transfer, or cash. All fares are for pick up or drop off and are inclusive of GST/HST.

**Annapolis Royal to Halifax - \$250.00**  
**Bridgetown to Halifax Airport \$235.00**

**Annapolis Royal or Bridgetown to Valley Regional Hospital – Kentville \$140.00**  
including 2 hours wait time

**Annapolis Royal or Bridgetown to Halifax Hospitals \$290.00**  
including 4 hours of wait time

**Bridgetown to Middleton - \$35.00**  
**Bridgetown to Annapolis - \$30.00**  
**Bridgetown Digby - \$78.00**  
**Annapolis to Digby - \$48.00**

The company has always held full taxi licenses and insurance. For any other information, please contact Brian at (902) 665-0057 or email [bridgetowntaxi@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetowntaxi@gmail.com)

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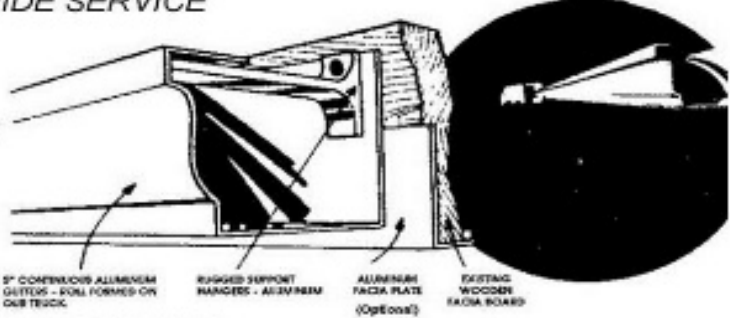
**Sun. Jan. 25, 11am-2:00pm Farmers and Crafters Market**, every Sunday at the Lions Club at 948 Hwy 1, Deep Brook. Local vendors and farmers. New vendors always welcome.

**Sun. Jan. 25, 1:00pm Winter Walk / Snowshoe Hike** at Upper Clements Trails, 12958 Hwy 1, Upper Clements. Sponsored by Annapolis County Recreation. Snowshoes and other equipment will be available. Contact [winteractive@annapoliscountry.ca](mailto:winteractive@annapoliscountry.ca) or 902-532-2142 for more info and updates.

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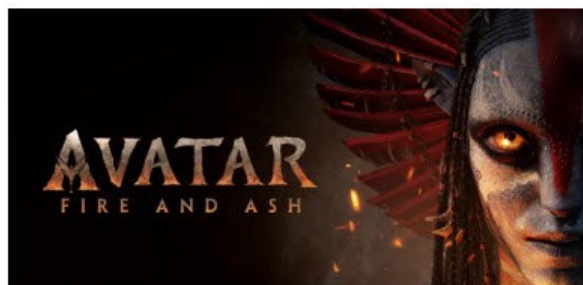
**[www.allsealseamless.ca](http://www.allsealseamless.ca)**





## MARTY SUPREME

A young man with a dream no one respects, goes to hell and back in pursuit of greatness  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00 PM**



## AVATAR: FIRE & ASH

James Cameron takes audiences back to Pandora in an immersive new adventure  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM**



**BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL**  
The World's Best Mountain Films. Official sponsor: Still Fired Distilleries  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup> @ 2:00 PM**



## SONG SUNG BLUE

Based on the true story of two musicians who form a Neil Diamond tribute band  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM**



## A PRIVATE LIFE (Vie Privée)

Psychiatrist (Jodie Foster) mounts a private investigation into the death of her patient (FR/EN)  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM**



## THE CHORAL

They were divided by war, he united them in song. Starring Ralph Fiennes  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 PM**



## MOVEMENT FOR THEATRE WORKSHOP

FREE! With Alex McLean of Zuppa  
Ages 12 to Adult. Registration required  
**SATURDAY JAN 24<sup>th</sup> & SUNDAY JAN 25<sup>th</sup>**



## HAMNET

TIFF winner: People's Choice. Golden Globe winner: Best Actress, Jessie Buckley.  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 PM**



## THE HETEROSEXUALS

Johnnie McNamara Walker's off-broadway hit comedy show  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM**



## TONG WANG

Thrilling Canadian pianist.  
In partnership with Debut Atlantic  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM**



## CHARLIE THE WONDERDOG

Charlie learns that real heroism comes from courage, kindness & believing in yourself  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 PM**



## RUM RAGGED

Newfoundland Trad.  
JUNO Award nominees & ECMA winners  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:30 PM**

**Sun. Jan. 25, 2:00pm** The **Centrelea United Baptist Church** is holding weekly worship services at the **Centrelea Hall** for the winter months. Services are at 2pm, except adjustment to time or location will made for February 15th and March 15th, as these are SOOF Sundays at the Hall. Watch for notices about plan for these weeks. Everyone is welcome. For more information about the church, services or our beliefs, please text or phone Pastor Elizabeth Legassie at 902-526-2493.

**Sun. Jan. 25, 2-5:00pm** **Rosehip Community Herbs Free Herbal Support Pop-up** at Bees Knees General Store, Lawrencetown. Come chat with a clinical herbalist and take home tinctures, teas and other medicines to support you this winter. All free or by donation. No appointment necessary.

**Sun. Jan. 25, 7-9:00pm** **Fun Darts**, every Sunday evening at the Bridgetown Legion, 20 Jeffery Street. \$3 entry returned in prizes.

**Mon. Jan. 26, 10:00am** **The Bridgetown and Area Community Fund** members will hold their annual meeting in the Britespan Atlantic building at 441 Granville St #1, Bridgetown. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn about their local Community Fund. This meeting is a postponement of the previously announced on for Jan 19, 2026 which was cancelled due to weather.

**Mon. Jan. 26, 10-11:00am** **Indoor Fitness Walking** @ Lower Granville Hall (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Drop in every Monday and/or Thursday for an indoor walk. These basic low-impact cardio walking videos exercise the whole body (We usually walk 2-3 miles which is 30 or 45 minutes). These videos incorporate walking in place, knee raises, kicks, side and back steps, arm movements and so much more. \$2 Donation Suggested. \*

**Mon. Jan. 26, 10am-12:00pm** **Memoir Writing Group** meets every Monday morning in the music room at the Annapolis Library to share chapters of their memoirs for friendly discussion. No workshops. Everyone welcome.

**Mon. Jan. 26, 6:00pm** **Christ Church Anglican Church AGM**. If you have any interest in Christ Church or live in Karsdale, please come. Information on location available by contacting St. Luke's Church office at annapolis.parish@eastlink.ca.

**Mon. Jan. 26, 7:00pm** **Young Adult Bible Study**, weekly, at Salvation Army Church, Bridgetown. Are you a young adult (age 18-40ish) interested in meeting other young adults in the area and studying God's word together? This is the group for you! Light refreshments will be provided. All are welcome! Bring a friend! Please email Carrie at bridgetownbaptistyoungadults@gmail.com with any questions. \*

**Mon. Jan. 26, 7:00pm** **Valley Lions Radio Bingo** (VLRB) is a Media Bingo broadcast on Annapolis Valley Radio, AVR 97.7FM and other AVR stations from Digby to Windsor, every Monday night from 7-8pm. Bingo Cards are sold through valley retail locations. Info at [www.vlrb.ca](http://www.vlrb.ca) \*

**Tue. Jan. 26, 7:00pm** **January Maker's Swap**, an Annapolis Valley Folk School event at 1963 Clarence Rd. GET A TICKET ON EVENTBRITE: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/postponed-january-makers-swap-tickets-1980725147235>

For those who are new to the Makers Swaps, this is a simple community gathering where all ages and abilities are welcome and the concept is simple: bring anything you have made with your hands and trade for treasures from others. There is no money exchanged and PERFECTION IS NOT REQUIRED!

It is also greatly appreciated if you can bring a few pantry items to the swap. Our pantry is increasingly active with many people using it. A few suggestions are crackers, beans, canned pasta, meats, and veggies, apple sauce, fruit cups, macaroni and cheese, pastas and sauces. We were given a fridge so milk, cream, margarine, yogurt, and cheeses can all be dropped off as well.

If you have any questions reach out to us on facebook @annapolisvalleyfolkschool or at avfolkschool@gmail.com or call Maureen at 902-309-0224.





**Mon. Jan. 26, 7-9:00pm Craft Club** @ Lower Granville Hall (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Now EVERY Monday night! Calling all Fibre artists. Join us at the Hall for a Stitch’n’Bi\*ch. All skill levels welcome. Knit, crochet, embroider, felt, mend, sew, quilt, spin, weave, needlepoint, rug hooking... We will put the kettle on. Bring your project and \$2 Hall donation. \*

**Tues. Jan. 27, 10-11:00am Senior Exercise Class** at the Bridgetown Legion. Certified instructor. Work to your own comfort and ability level. Please bring resistance bands and hand weights if you have them. \$4 per class. Come for fun while being active! Newcomers always welcome. \*

**Tues. Jan. 27, 11:15-12:15pm Hatha Flow Yoga** @ Lower Granville Hall (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Build strength and flexibility with a flowing practice that links breath with movement, including standing poses and floor stretches. This new 5-week session (Jan 13th - Feb 12th) has expanded to 2 days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays)! Register in person at the first class. 1 class per week is \$50, or 2 classes per week is \$100, or drop in for \$15 per class. No experience needed — all levels welcome.

**Tues. Jan. 27, 12:30-1:30pm Chair Yoga** @ Lower Granville Hall (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Perfect for those with hip, knee, or balance concerns. Gentle, supportive, and accessible. This new 5-week session (Jan 13th - Feb 12th) has expanded to 2 days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays)! Register in person at the first class. 1 class per week is \$50, or 2 classes per week is \$100, or drop in for \$15 per class. No experience needed — all levels welcome.

**Tues. Jan. 27, 1-3:00pm The Annapolis East Seniors Card Group**, meet at NSCC Middleton campus every Tuesday.

**Tues. Jan. 27, 7:15-10:15pm Middleton Legion Bingo** Tuesdays at 205 Marshall Street, Middleton. \*

**Wed. Jan. 28, 9:00am Yoga at the Clarence Hall**, 3337 Clarence Road, every Wednesday. Come out and do some stretching and make your body feel better while you are helping to support the community pantry. Open to everyone with instruction for every level of yoga. Bring your mat or chairs are available on site. Free will offer goes toward supporting the Annapolis Valley Folk School Community Pantry. Questions call Maureen at 902-309-0224. \*

**Wed. Jan. 28, 10:00am NS Walks Annapolis Royal** Wednesdays at 10am. Are you interested in getting some exercise, at your pace, with friendly people, and in picturesque surroundings? Join our Walk Group! We meet every Wednesday at 10:00am at the Annapolis Royal Farmers' Market parking lot. Walkers of all ages and abilities are welcome. For further information, call (902) 250-0429.

**Wed. Jan. 28, 10:00am NS WALKS BRIDGETOWN** a walking group for all levels and abilities If you are looking for motivation to get out for a bit of exercise and to socialize come join us. Walkers meet at the Library every Wednesday at 10:00 am. All are welcome Registration is not required. For more information check our Facebook Group NS WALKS BRIDGETOWN

**Wed. Jan. 28, 12-1:00pm Pastel Butterfly Bookmark Craft** A colourful way to keep your place! Make a beautiful butterfly bookmark. Ages 16+. Registration is required. In the Dugua Room, Annapolis Royal Library. 902-532-2226, 143 Ritchie Street. If you sign up but are unable to join in on the day, please cancel your spot as we have a waitlist.



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What can I claim..... bring it in we will know  
Do I need my prescriptions slips....call the pharmacy and ask for a printout for the year  
When will my slips be available...government slips are issued by February 28,2026  
What about medical trips.... we know the mileage rates and what trips qualify

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**THE LAWRIE GROUP**

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**Wed. Jan. 28, 1:00pm Winter Walk / Snowshoe Hike** at Upper Clements Trails, 12958 Hwy 1, Upper Clements. Sponsored by Annapolis County Recreation. Snowshoes and other equipment will be available. Contact winteractive@annapoliscounty.ca or 902-532-2142 for more info and updates.

**Wed. Jan. 28, 7:00pm Brickton Community Hall Jam Sessions** Every Wednesday @ 7. Free will offering. All welcome. \*

**Wed. Jan. 28, 7-9:00pm Fun Cribbage** every Wednesday evening at the Bridgetown Legion, 20 Jeffery Street. \$6 entry returned in prizes. All welcome. \*

**Wed. Jan. 28 and Fri. Jan. 30, 7:30-9:30pm Bridgetown Pickleball at BRCS.** Entrance on north end of school (NOT the main entrance). Please bring a change of footwear. \$2 per night. Newcomers always welcome! Questions? 902-665-4353 or 902-665-4308.

**Wed. Jan. 28, 8:00pm Al-anon Meeting**, for relatives and friends of alcoholics, at the First United Baptist Church at 762 George Street, Annapolis Royal, every Wednesdays at 8pm. Please enter through the front door.

**Thur. Jan. 29, 10–11:00am Indoor Fitness Walking** @ Lower Granville Hall (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Drop in every Monday and/or Thursday for an indoor walk. These basic low-impact cardio walking videos exercise the whole body (We usually walk 2-3 miles which is 30 or 45 minutes). These videos incorporate walking in place, knee raises, kicks, side and back steps, arm movements and so much more. \$2 Donation Suggested. \*

**Thur. Jan. 29, 4:30-6:00pm** Lawrencetown and District Lions Club **Community Spaghetti Dinner** at COGS, 50 Elliott Rd. Spaghetti dinner with meat sauce, garlic bread, tea, coffee, juice for kids and a cookie. Gluten free option available. Take out available \$10 adults, \$8 kids under 12. Free for kids under 5.

**Thur. Jan. 29, 7:00pm Watercolor Basics with Shelley!** an Annapolis Valley Folk School Event at 1963 Clarence Road. Back again as there was so much interest! Tickets available here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/barter-based-session-watercolour-painting-tickets-1980872108801> Learn some basic techniques of watercolors - Wet on Wet, Wet on Dry and add in some ink! Watercolors and ink are a great combination! You can make an ink drawing and tint it with watercolor, or you can do a watercolor and enhance it with ink lines. We are going to let the watercolors flow freely and learn the difference between loose and tight paintings. We can also use the spatter technique to create a fun background. Yes! We will paint a few things and see where the colors flow! Everyone's creations will be definitely unique! My goal is for participants to see firsthand that watercolors are fun, fast and easy!

If this is your first time attending a barter-based skills-trade class, note that attendees are encouraged to bring an item(s) to offer in exchange for the knowledge shared in addition to any supplies required for the class. Our facilitator's preferred items are Jams/jellies/wool/coffee/honey/baked goods ..no, allergic!, wine. There is no fee associated with this ticket but please do not just indicate "coming" on the event - we've found this is not an accurate capture of attendees. If you have any difficulty registering, you can send us an email at [avfolkschool@gmail.com](mailto:avfolkschool@gmail.com) message us on Facebook or call Maureen at 902-309-0224.

**Fri. Jan. 30, 9:30-11:30am Veteran’s Lodge Buddy Check coffee.** This event is open to all Annapolis Valley Veterans and serving members. This is a FREE event for Veterans. Register by emailing [theveteranslodge@gmail.com](mailto:theveteranslodge@gmail.com). At the 7Arts Centre 619 Central Ave, Greenwood. \*

**Fri. Jan. 30, 5:30-9:00pm Pub Night** at the Bridgetown Legion, 22 Jeffrey Street. Music by Delusion Road (music starts at 6:30). BVFD Draw night. Bar open 2-10:30.





## BRIDGETOWN'S STORY IN PICTURES - HELP US BUILD IT!

### 20TH CENTURY COMMUNITY SCRAPBOOK PROJECT

Do you have old photographs of Bridgetown from the 1900s? We're creating a collaborative scrapbook to capture the life, spirit, and transformation of our town across the 20th century – and your photos could be part of it.

#### WE'RE LOOKING FOR IMAGES OF:

- ♦ Families, schools, churches, and local gatherings
- ♦ Businesses, storefronts, and tradespeople
- ♦ Parades, sports teams, and community celebrations
- ♦ Riverfront scenes, railway moments, and changing streets
- ♦ Everyday life – the quiet and the joyful

#### HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:

Email your photos (as attachments) to  
[20thcenturybridgetown@gmail.com](mailto:20thcenturybridgetown@gmail.com).

Every photo included will be thoughtfully credited.  
Let's build a visual memory of Bridgetown together, before the memories are lost forever.



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#### Sat. Jan. 31, 12–1:00pm **Pastel Butterfly**

**Bookmark Craft** A colourful way to keep your place! Make a beautiful butterfly bookmark. Ages 16+. Registration is required. In the DeVenney Room at the Bridgetown & Area Library. 902-665-2758, 38 Queen Street. If you sign up but are unable to join in on the day, please cancel your spot as we have a waitlist.

#### Sat. Jan. 31, 1-3:00pm **Fire Pit in the Parking**

**Lot** @ Lower Granville Hall (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Bundle up in your warm jacket and join us around the fire. We will be hosting this outdoor event, complete with a fire pit, hot drinks (coffee, tea, hot chocolate), hot dogs, and s'mores. We will have supplies on hand; you provide your roasting know-how. If bringing children, please make sure to keep a good eye on them around the fire. Bring your outdoor chairs and sticks for roasting. Everyone is welcome to attend this event. Donations welcome.

#### Sat. Jan. 31, 2:00pm **Barter Based Session:**

**Spoken Words with Writer's Ink**, an Annapolis Valley Folk School event at 3777 Clarence Road, Clarence. Come on out to welcome our local writers group: Writer's Ink! Grab a friend and bring a cup of java to the School house on Clarence for an afternoon of Spoken Word from our very own local Writer's Inc group. Get tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/spoken-words-in-the-school-house-with-writers-ink-tickets-1980132436421>

Writer's Ink is a group of local writers that are going to come and read excerpts of their writing to us. It will be a great way to spend a winter's afternoon. While getting to experience our local talent! Grab a friend and come on out! If the weather causes an issue we will gather February 28 same place same time. Barter items for this event are: Items for AVFS Pantry including cereal, canned meat, veggies, fruit, granola bars, milk, bread.

There is no fee associated with this ticket but please do not just indicate "coming" on the event - we've found this is not an accurate capture of attendees. If you have any difficulty registering, you can send us an email at [avfolkschool@gmail.com](mailto:avfolkschool@gmail.com) or message us on facebook. Looking forward to seeing you!

**Sun. Feb. 1, 7-9:00pm **Snow Moon Howl**** Join Annapolis Royal Recreation for an outdoor event celebrating community recreation, nature, and the February full moon (known as the Snow Moon). There will be snowshoeing or hiking, kicksledding for kids and adults courtesy of the County of Annapolis Winter Active Team, hot cider, a bonfire, and headlamps provided for a trek around the French Basin Trail! For more information, or in the event of severe weather, please call 902-955-1205. French Basin Trail, 112 Prince Albert St.

**Tues. Feb. 3, 1:30-4pm **Jam Session**** at Parker Hall, Victoria Vale, across from the church, every 2nd Tuesday. Doors open at 1:00. Come out for an afternoon of music, fun and refreshment and support the Hall. Next Jam Feb. 17\*

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#### Wed. Feb. 4, 2:00pm **The Clements**

**Historical Society** will be holding its regular monthly meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion, Clementsport, NS, Hwy #1, in the Upper Hall. Local author, historian and genealogist Denise Rice, will be sharing her insights and knowledge through her presentation "Talking About Rose Fortune". At this first meeting of the Clements Historical Society for 2026, there will be an opportunity to renew your annual membership. We welcome new members as well. The membership dues remain at \$10 per person. Cash and E-transfer will be available. Refreshments welcomed and served. Everyone is welcome.

**Thur. Feb. 5, 2:15-4:15pm **Caregiver Support Group**** meets at the Kingston Library, 671 Main St. Do you give unpaid care to a parent, spouse, child, friend, or relative due to frailty, advanced age, chronic illness, mental illness, or disability? You are not alone! The NS Caregivers Support Group meets on the first Thursday of each month. It is facilitated by trained staff members who offer a confidential, friendly atmosphere for you to discuss your experiences and receive helpful information in a supportive environment. For more information and to register, call Jennine Wilson, 1-877-488-7390 (toll-free).

**Thur. Feb. 5, 6:30-8:30pm **Craft & Chat at the Paradise Community Hall****. Join us for a cozy and creative gathering held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at the Paradise Community Hall (10300 Hwy #1, Paradise). Whether you're into knitting, painting, diamond art, scrapbooking, or any other craft - bring your project along and we'll put the kettle on! \$5 per person with all proceeds to help support the hall.

**Sat. Feb. 7, 8-10:00am **Lions Big Breakfast**** at the Bridgetown Legion, 20 Jeffery Street. Come and join us for Breakfast. We'd love to see you. Free will offering as always.

**Sat. Feb. 7, 10am-2:00pm **Hearts & Crafts Market**** at the Wilmot Community Centre, 13972 Highway 1. Sponsored by Nova Scotia Pantry. Cupid Photo Booth, Kids Craft Station, Goodie Bags for each family, lots of amazing food and craft vendors and so much more! Free admission. For more info and to register as a business email [novascotiapantry@hotmail.com](mailto:novascotiapantry@hotmail.com) Check us out at [www.novascotiapantry.com](http://www.novascotiapantry.com) Your one stop for local handcrafted Nova Scotia products.



**Tues. Feb. 10, 1:00pm The Annual Meeting of the Mountains & Meadows Fund** will be held at the DeVenney Room of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library, Bridgetown. Please RSVP by calling 902-840-0504 in case the meeting must be cancelled due to inclement weather.

**Wed. Feb. 11, 1-3:00pm Senior’s Day** at the Bear River & Area Community Health Clinic, 1112 River Rd. This recurring monthly event falls on the second Wednesday of each month and is intended as a time to catch up with old friends and meet new ones! Enjoy light refreshments and rotating activities through the year. Free will donation at the door. \*

**Wed. Feb. 11, 2-4:00pm Genealogy Coffee Club** Join us for an afternoon of socializing and storytelling at the O’Dell House Museum & Genealogy Centre! Explore the Annapolis Heritage Society genealogical resource library and learn about our offerings. Engage with other genealogy enthusiasts and family historians in the community. Ask your burning questions or share research roadblocks you’ve encountered. Tell us about your favourite family history discoveries Light refreshments will be provided. We hope you drop by and join the conversation! 136 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal.

**Thur. Feb. 12, 11:30am Please join us for the Best Years Fellowship for Seniors** at the Hillsburn United Baptist Church, 3686 Shore Road West, Hillsburn. There will be a free lunch. Charlie and Jennifer Thibodeau will be providing the entertainment. Hope you can join us.

**Thur. Feb. 12, 7:00pm The Clarence 4-H Club** meets at the Clarence Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm. New members and leaders are always welcome! For more information call Shanda at 902-824-2835.

**Sat. Feb. 14, 5:00pm Monthly Potluck** at the Round Hill Hall, second Saturday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Sat. Feb. 14, 7:00pm Valentine's Day Country Dance** at the Bear River Royal Canadian Legion, 1877 Clementsvale Rd. Doors open at 6:45pm. Featuring Revelstoke Power Supply & Bill Ricky. Save the date and elope in Bear River! Two country bands are coming from Halifax to celebrate a romantic evening in Bear River. Wear your best bride and groom attire. Admission \$15 or Pay What You Can. Advance tickets at Bear River Grocery.

**Sun Feb 15 SOOF Soup Sunday** Join Save Our Old Forests at the Centrelea Community Hall (3495 Highway 201) for our February SOOF Soup Sunday! Doors open and lunch is served starting at 12 pm. Shortly after 1pm, Guest Speaker Sadie Beaton will facilitate a conversation about what the Treaties of Peace and Friendship mean today. You can also pick up a belated Valentine for the pottery lover in your life; Ray Mackie's "Seconds" will be available for Pay What You Can (proceeds to SOOF). Free lunch. All Welcome. Donations to the Hall appreciated. [saveouroldforests.ca/event/20260215-soupsunday/](http://saveouroldforests.ca/event/20260215-soupsunday/)

**Sun. Feb. 15, 1-2:00pm National Flag Day Courtyard Bonfire** at the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens. Gather 'round the bonfire with hot chocolate & marshmallows and sing along to an iconic Canadian playlist. Be sure to wear Red and bring something with a Maple Leaf if you can! Many of you may wish to complete your afternoon in the cozy King's Theatre, enjoying "The Choral", a great film starting at 2pm. The timing will allow you to do both, or you may choose to linger at the Gardens for a while. Lots of options! By donation. 441 St. George St.

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JAN 8TH

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HOT MULLED BEER  
12PM-2PM

SUN  
JAN 11TH

RESCUE PURRS DAY  
CATS FOR KEEPS  
ADOPT•FOSTER•VOLUNTEER  
6PM-8PM

THU  
JAN 15TH

BEER CLUB  
EXCLUSIVE EVENT  
6PM-8PM

THU  
JAN 15TH

KARAOKE PARTY W/  
ALEXANDRA DAWN RODGERSON  
7PM-10PM

SAT  
JAN 17TH

NEW NEIGHBOURS ANNAPOLIS VALLEY  
MEET NEW FRIENDS  
RESERVE A SEAT  
RSVP ROB: ROB@ROBSCHellenBERGER.CA  
530PM - 9PM

THU  
JAN 22ND

LIVE MUSIC W/  
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SAT  
JAN 24TH

TAPROOM & KITCHEN

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FRI-SAT - 12-9

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HAPPY HOUR

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**Mon. Feb. 16, 1:30-3pm Care Givers Support Group** (for people who care for loved ones with dementia) The group meets the 3rd Monday of the month, except July and August, from 1:30 – 3:00pm, at St George & St Andrew United Church, 393 St George St, Annapolis Royal, (at the lights), Office Door, side entry. Contacts: Art Jones – 902-532-0784; Lou Fletcher – 902-532-2377.

**Tues. Feb. 17, 5-6:30pm The Anglican Parish of Bridgetown is planning a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** at St. James Anglican Church, Bridgetown. The menu will feature pancakes and sausage, a light dessert with juice, tea and coffee. The meal will be served between 5 and 6:30pm. A free-will offering will be collected at the door.

**Wed. Feb. 18, 6-7:30pm Achieving Good Mental Health** Join us at Upper Clements Hall for a clear, grounded conversation on mental health – what it is, why it matters, and how to strengthen it in everyday life. You’ll learn practical ways to prevent unnecessary suffering and build resilience, even through winter’s challenges. Presented by guest speaker Tim Wall, a therapist, educator and resource developer with over 35 years’ experience in the field of post-traumatic stress. Upper Clements Hall, 2951 Hwy 1.

David Bowlby  
MLA - Annapolis

[mladavidbowlby@gmail.com](mailto:mladavidbowlby@gmail.com)

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Our Communities Aren’t Broken — They’re Waiting for Us

Most people care deeply about their community. They care about their neighbours. About places where people gather. About feeling connected, useful, and part of something that matters. They worry about loneliness, mental health, and the sense that community life doesn’t feel the way it used to.

At the same time, many local organizations are quietly struggling. Community halls, churches, service clubs, charities, and volunteer groups across our region are increasingly run by the same small group of people. These volunteers show up year after year — organizing events, opening buildings, managing details, solving problems — because they believe in what these places provide.

They do it gladly. Until they are simply exhausted.

This is not because others don’t care. It’s because many people feel stretched thin, overwhelmed, and unsure where they still fit. Life feels full. Days are busy. Evenings disappear quickly. We tell ourselves we’ll get involved when things slow down — when we have more time, more energy, fewer responsibilities.

And yet, many of us feel lonely. We miss real connection. We miss being known. We wonder why it feels harder than it once did to build friendships or feel rooted where we live.

What we may have forgotten is that, for generations, belonging wasn’t something people waited to feel — it was something they practiced.

Community involvement wasn’t reserved for a few “volunteer types.” It was simply part of life. You joined the committee. You helped with the supper. You coached, baked, cleaned, organized, or showed up when needed. Whatever you were good at or enjoyed, you found a way to share it with your community.

Not because it was glamorous, but because that was how community worked. Through shared effort, people formed bonds. They felt needed. Life felt fuller.

Today, many of the people still doing this work do so quietly and without recognition. When things run smoothly, their effort goes unseen. When something struggles, they are more likely to hear criticism than offers of help. Over time, even the most committed volunteers burn out.

When they step back, something precious falters — not just an organization, but a shared place for connection.

This matters because we are also living through a loneliness and mental-health crisis. We are searching for purpose and meaning, often in isolation. We talk about self-care, but we frequently overlook one of the strongest sources of well-being: being part of something real, local, and shared.

The truth is, most people don’t need to do more. They need to belong again. Community does not require perfection or endless availability. It doesn’t demand everything you have. Often, it asks for something small — an hour, a skill, a willingness to help, or simply showing up.

When more people step into that space, the load lightens for everyone. Organizations stabilize. Long-time volunteers feel supported. New energy and leadership emerge. And individuals rediscover a quiet sense of purpose that no amount of scrolling can replace.

Our communities are not failing. They are waiting. Waiting for people to remember that community is not something we consume from a distance. It is something we build — together.

And the invitation is still open.

**Daniela Siggia-Beasant** is a local community volunteer with the Upper Clements Community Hall and County area resident. Her professional work includes serving as Creative Director at BRMG & North of 50 Magazine, and Vice-President of Business Development at Secord Strategies

**Sat Feb 21 SOOFSTOCK Presents "Music at the Museum"** Save Our Old Forests (SOOF) is excited to invite you to our first concert of 2026: Music at the Museum! We hope you can join us for an afternoon of uplifting harmonies and joyful instrumentals featuring performances from Still River, Lorne Allan & Sue Littleton, and Permanent Resonance. Tickets are Pay What You Can (suggested \$20) at the door. Doors open at 1:30pm and music starts at 2pm. Macdonald Museum (21 School Street, Middleton).

**Sat. Feb. 21, 1-1:45pm Monthly Death Cafe** in the Dugua Room at the Annapolis Royal Library. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Come to One or Come to All. \*

**Sun. March 1, 1:00pm Snowshoe / Winter Walk** at Kejimikujik National Park, sponsored by Annapolis county Recreation. Meet at Mill Falls Parking lot (right after Visitor Centre). Join us for refreshments and a fire after the walk. Contact winteractive@annapoliscounty.ca or 902-532-2142 for more info and updates.

**Sun Mar 15 SOOF Soup Sunday** Come join Save Our Old Forests at the Centrelea Community Hall (3495 Highway 201) for our March SOOF Soup Sunday! Doors open and lunch is served starting at 12 pm. Shortly after 1pm, Guest Speaker Keith Egger will host a talk about Postfire Mushrooms and what role fungi play in the postfire ecosystem. Ray Mackie's "Seconds" will be available for purchase by donation (proceeds to SOOF). Free lunch. All Welcome. Donations to the Hall appreciated. saveouroldforests.ca/event/20260315-soupsunday/

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### Fri. Jan. 23, 7:00pm **Marty Supreme** (film)

Timothée Chalamet stars as a table tennis player who ping pongs between playing in tournaments and hustling for money in the seedy underworld of New York City so he can travel to more matches. His character Marty Mauser is loosely inspired by Marty Reisman, a New Yorker who was one of the world's best table tennis players, boasting 22 major titles from 1946 to 2002, including two United States Opens and a British Open. Tickets: \$11.95 Adult, \$7.95 Youth (under 18).

**Sun. Jan. 25, 3:00pm **Avatar: Fire & Ash**** (film, PG13) With "Avatar: Fire and Ash," James Cameron takes audiences back to Pandora in an immersive new adventure with Marine turned Na'vi leader Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), Na'vi warrior Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), and the Sully family. Tickets: \$11.95 Adult, \$7.95 Youth (under 18).

**Sat. Jan. 31, 7:00pm **Hamnet**** (film, PG) After losing their son Hamnet to plague, Agnes and William Shakespeare grapple with grief in 16th-century England. A healer, Agnes must find strength to care for her surviving children while processing her devastating loss. From Academy Award® winning writer/director Chloé Zhao, Hamnet tells the powerful story of love and loss that inspired the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, Hamlet. Starring Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal, Zac Wishart, and Emily Watson. Tickets: \$11.95 Adult, \$7.95 Youth (under 18).

**Sun. Feb. 1, 2:00pm **Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour**** comes to Annapolis Royal!!! Banff Mountain Film Festival is one of the largest and most prestigious mountain festivals in the world. Hot on the heels of the Festival that is held every fall in beautiful Banff, Alberta, the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour hits the road. With stops planned in over 600 communities and more than 40 countries across the globe, the Banff World Tour celebrates amazing achievements in outdoor storytelling and film-making worldwide. Discover the world's wildest places on screen – from towering peaks to untamed rivers, from life-changing expeditions to edge-of-your-seat action. Tickets: \$25.00 Adult, \$15.00 Youth (under 18)

**Fri. Feb. 6, 7:30pm **The Heterosexuals**** (live performance) A deep-dive into the shocking world of Heterosexuality! THEY WALK AMONG US! But where did they come from? And what do they think they're wearing?! Find out in this explosive solo show based on undercover research gathered while posing as one of their own! Combining elements of storytelling, satire, comedy, and deep personal humiliation, The Heterosexuals is here to spill the T on what The Queers really think about The Straights.

The latest solo show from tour-de-force writer/performer Johnnie McNamara Walker has wowed audiences and sold out houses across Canada as well as touring internationally to Ireland and the US, including an Off-Broadway run at The SoHo Playhouse in NYC. Walker is a writer and performer from Toronto who has been producing work for the stage for twenty years. Recommended for audiences 13+. Light cursing and sexual content. Tickets: Adults \$45, Supported \$25, Youth \$15.

**Sat. Feb. 7, 7:00pm **Song Sung Blue**** (film, PG) Based on a true story, two down-on-their-luck musicians (Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson) form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band, proving it's never too late to find love and follow your dreams. Tickets: \$11.95 Adult, \$7.95 Youth (under 18).

**Sun. Feb. 8, 2:00pm **Tong Wang**** (live performance) Thrilling Canadian pianist Tong Wang is a dynamic artist whose work spans styles, genres, and communities. A prizewinner of the International Chopin Golden Ring Competition and recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal of Performing Arts, she has performed with the Edmonton and Red Deer Symphony Orchestras, toured internationally, and brought music to schools, senior homes, and hospitals.

Beyond the stage, Tong is deeply engaged in social and cultural initiatives. She has led multimedia projects, co-founded innovative ensembles, and launched the Windwood Music Festival to bring chamber music into rural communities. Tickets: Adults \$30, Youth \$10.

## Welcome to CORAH!

**Centre of Rural Aging and Health (CORAH)** is a community hub and active living centre for older adults (55+):

- A place to **connect** with others, **exercise** the mind and body, and **empower** oneself!
- Social, cultural, educational, & recreation programs: weekly **fitness classes**, creative **art groups**, **presentations** and more!
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**Location: CORAH at NSCC Middleton Campus**  
**Contact: corah-avc@nsc.ca or 902-825-5215**

55+



## New Year, New Page:

### An Intro to Bullet Journaling

Join NSCC's Elizabeth Garcin to learn more about **Bullet Journaling made simple**:

- Explore the basics of **Bullet Journaling**
- Discover a tool for **memory, mindfulness and lifestyle management**
- Use **Journaling to organize tasks, track goals, and live with intention in 2026!**

**THURSDAY February 05 \*10:00am – 12:00pm\***

**Location: CORAH at NSCC Middleton Campus**  
**Register: corah-avc@nsc.ca OR 902-825-5215**

Journals Available for SALE – or Bring Your Own.



## Love Where You Live:

### Community Mapping With Purpose

Join NSCC Geomatics Instructor Ed Symons, **NSCC students & CORAH** for an exciting project:

- Map local assets like **green spaces, health resources, cultural and community hubs**.
- Identify local challenges and **reframe them for positive change**.
- Your participation supports **student learning and community development**.

**THURSDAY February 12 \*9:30am – 11:30am\***

**Location: CORAH at NSCC Campus**  
**Register: corah-avc@nsc.ca OR 902-825-5215**



## Quilting and Sew Much More!

### Join the "Sew-Easy-to-Give" Guild:

- Join a **lively team of 20+ volunteers**
  - Help create beautiful quilts for our community
  - Share your skills-or learn something new!
- Non-sewers are welcome!**

**TUESDAYS \*12:30pm – 3:15pm\***

**Winter/Spring 2026: February 10 – May 05**

**Location: CORAH at NSCC Middleton Campus**

**Register: corah-avc@nsc.ca OR 902-825-5215**



## Join the CORAH "Cast-Offs"

### Have Fun at the Friday Knitting Group:

- Bring your own **knitting projects**: Enjoy a relaxed and self-guided environment with great company
- Connect with other knitters: Join a warm, welcoming community where you can share ideas, get tips, and receive support

**FRIDAYS \*1:00pm – 2:30pm\***

**Winter/Spring 2026: February 13 – June 05**

**Location: CORAH at NSCC Middleton Campus**  
**Register: corah-avc@nsc.ca OR 902-825-5215**

Free to Join! Registration numbers limited.



## Guided Group Snowshoe

Join the **Annapolis County Winter Active Team & CORAH** for a guided snowshoe:

- Practice snowshoeing and learn more about the natural world during this guided activity
- Borrow or bring your own equipment
- Beat the winter blues, get active & have FUN!

**Location: Riverside Park, Middleton**

Meet: Parking lot at Riverside Park, Bridge St., Middleton

**THURSDAY February 26 \*12:30pm – 2:00pm\***

**Register: corah-avc@nsc.ca OR 902-825-5215**



## The Science and Magic of Music

Join musician and educator Wendy Hardman for **inspiring stories, science-backed insights, and hands-on activities to show how music can boost mood, reduce stress, and spark creativity**:

- An **interactive, uplifting session** reveals music as a tool for **ease, joy, connection, wellness**.
- Experience music through **fun exercises!**
- Share stories and adventures connected to music! Leave with tested strategies to harness the 'magic' of music for your own well-being.

**WEDNESDAY February 04 \*10:00am – 11:00am\***

**Location: CORAH at NSCC Middleton Campus**  
**Register: corah-avc@nsc.ca OR 902-825-5215**



## Wired Wisdom: Tech Talk Trivia!

Join Deb McBean for an afternoon of fun:

- Test your tech knowledge in a fun and supportive environment!
  - Review the basics: **cell phones, tablets, and digital dilemmas**
  - Join us for **Tech Talk terminology trivia**
- FRIDAY February 06 \*1:30pm – 2:30pm\***

**Location: CORAH at NSCC Middleton Campus**

**Register: corah-avc@nsc.ca OR 902-825-5215**



## Nourish and Flourish: Delicious, Healthy Cooking for One or a Few

Join Chef/Nutritionist Howard Selig to:

- Prepare **nutritious snacks and meals** that **smack you with flavour!**
- Explore foods focused on **wellness and nutrition for Heart Health and Nutrition Months (February and March)**

**WEDNESDAY February 25 \*10:00am – 11:30am\***

**Location: CORAH at NSCC Middleton Campus**

**Register: corah-avc@nsc.ca OR 902-825-5215**



## Rug Hooking: Loops & Laughs

Join the **CORAH Rug Hookers**:

- **Beginners** – Come out and learn with us!
- **Experienced Hookers** – Share your skills, learn new techniques, and inspire others
- **Everyone** – No pressure, just fun! Enjoy great company, creative energy, and lots of laughs!

**WEDNESDAYS: \*1:00pm – 3:00pm\***

**Winter/Spring 2026: February 11 – June 03**

**Location: CORAH at NSCC Middleton Campus**

**Register: corah-avc@nsc.ca OR 902-825-5215**

Free to Join! Registration numbers limited. Starter kits available.



## Try it Out: Snowshoes & Kick Sleds

Join the **Annapolis County Winter Active Team and CORAH** for a guided snowshoe:

- Try out **snowshoes, kick sleds, or both**
- Receive **guided instruction and support**
- Borrow or bring your own equipment
- Beat the winter blues, get active, have FUN!

**Location: Middleton Rotary Raceway Park**

Meet: Parking lot at 337 Marshall Street, Middleton

**THURSDAY February 19 \*11:00am – 12:30pm\***

**Register: corah-avc@nsc.ca OR 902-825-5215**



## Foot Care Nurse

**Weekly Foot Care Clinic at CORAH**

Treat your feet! Book an appointment with **Lillian Terrio-Vogler of Terrio Foot Care**  
**Benefits: pain relief and comfort, improved circulation, prevents infection & more!**

**By Appointment:**

**TUESDAYS between 12:00pm – 4:00pm**

**To book an appointment: 902-690-5474**

**Location: CORAH at NSCC Middleton Campus**  
**\$45 for Basic Foot Care / Advanced / Diabetic**

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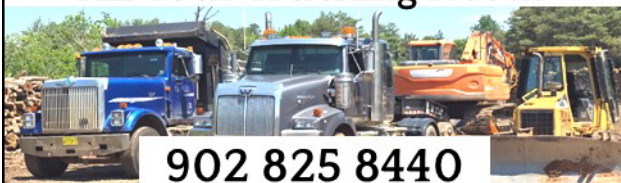


Friday 23 January, 4-8pm  
Saturday 24 January, 10am-3pm  
Free Jamie-style "Arbies" meal!  
Including curly fries! Saturday at noon

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## February 2026 Events at 7Arts

7Arts Centre, 619 Central Ave, Greenwood.

### **Mondays February 2, 9, & 23, 5:30-7pm Youth Art Lessons**

(ages 8+). If you are ages 8+, join us at the studio on Mondays (5:30-7pm) to experiment with various art media. We will be exploring sketching, texture art, painting with acrylics and watercolours, and clay. All supplies are included! Only \$25 per class or \$60 for all three Feb classes. Space is limited. Registration is required. Register by emailing [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca).

### **Tues. Feb. 3, 6:30-8pm Watercolour for Beginners Series**

Unlock your creativity in our beginner watercolour series starting on Tuesday evenings with Jenna starting on Feb 3rd. This is a 4-part series (Feb 3, 10, 17, & 24). No experience necessary. All supplies included. Cost is \$135 per person for the series. Space is limited. Registration is required by emailing [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca).

### **Wednesdays February 4, 11, 18, and 25, 1:00-3:00pm**

**Coffee & Colouring** (drop in). Let the stress of the day melt away! Come enjoy a relaxed atmosphere at the 7Arts gallery with a warm beverage, colouring, and conversation. All ages welcome! Pay what you can.

**Thur. Feb. 5, 6:30-8pm Paint Workshop with Jenna.** Join us for a fun evening of painting. Each participant will get to complete one 8x8" canvas painting. No experience necessary! All supplies are included. Cost is \$35 per person. Registration is required by emailing [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca).

### **Fridays February 6, 13, 20, 27, 9:30 am -11:30am**

**Veteran's Coffee.** This event is open to all Annapolis Valley Veterans and serving members. This is a FREE event for Veterans. For more information, email [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca).

### **Saturdays February 7, 14, and 28, 12:30-3:30pm Makers Space**

Bring a project to work on, start something new, or purchase one of our kits. Drop-ins welcome and encouraged! Cost starts at \$10. Caregivers are free.

### **Sun. Feb. 8, 2-4:00pm Galentine's Paint Day with Sarah.**

Celebrate the love of a great friend and create a shared memory together. Cost is \$35 per person. All supplies included! Registration is required by emailing [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca).

### **Tues. Feb. 10, 9-10:30am Gouache for Beginners.**

Join artist Jenna for this fun and informative Gouache for Beginners class. Gouache is an opaque, water-based medium that shares characteristics of both watercolour and acrylic paints. No experience necessary. Cost is \$35. All supplies included. Registration required by emailing [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca). If this feels too early, you're in luck! A repeat of this class will take place at 11am. Please specify which time you'd like when registering.

### **Tues. Feb. 10, 11am-12:30pm Gouache for Beginners.**

This will be a repeat of the 9am class. Please specify which class time you'd like when registering.

### **Thur. Feb. 12, 1-2:00pm HealthRHYTHMS Community**

**Drum Circle** Free to seniors! Reserve your seat by emailing [mindfullymore@gmail.com](mailto:mindfullymore@gmail.com).

### **Thur. Feb. 12, 6:30-8pm Valentine's Texture Art.**

Join us for this fun Valentine's themed texture art workshop. Each participant will get to complete two 5x7" canvas paintings. Cost is \$35 per person. No experience necessary. All supplies included. Registration is required by emailing [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca).

### **Tues. Feb. 17, 10-11:30am Watercolour & Mixed Media Workshop.**

Experiment with watercolour and mixed media techniques. This is a guided workshop with artist Jenna. No experience necessary. \$35 per person. Registration is required by emailing [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca).

### **Tues. Feb. 24, 10-11:30am Acrylic Workshop.**

Guided by artist Jenna, each participant will be completing an 8x10" canvas acrylic painting. No experience necessary. \$35 per person. Registration is required by emailing [info@7Arts.ca](mailto:info@7Arts.ca).

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message us on Facebook or use the contact form at [www.bridgetownreader.news](http://www.bridgetownreader.news).



Primary and Pre-Primary  
Registration

From January to May, schools invite families in our region to register children who will be eligible for Primary or Pre-Primary in the next school year. Families are encouraged to register as early as possible during the January to May Preprimary/Primary registration period, both to help wit planning for the new school year and to ensure children have opportunities to join orientation events.

To register for Pre-Primary, a child must be at least four years old by December 31 of the year they enter the program.

To register for Primary, a child must be at least five years old by December 31 of the year they start school. <https://avrce.ca/registration>

9-8-8 Crisis Line Support

The federal government will invest up to \$120.2 million over the next two years to support the continued operations of the 9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline, Canada's national, three-digit number for suicide crisis support.

The 9-8-8 network includes 37 partners across Canada who work with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in delivering crisis support from trained responders. Partners include local crisis lines, provincial mental health services, and national organizations such as Kids Help Phone and Hope for Wellness.

- Every day in Canada, 13 people die by suicide on average, and more than 250 people attempt it.
- In 2023, the Government of Canada announced an investment of \$177 million over three years to CAMH for the implementation and operation of 9-8-8 and to bolster the capacity of distress centres that were part of the existing network.
- Since its launch in November 2023, 9-8-8 answered more than 800,000 calls and texts.
- **At any time, anyone across the country who is experiencing a suicide crisis can call or text 9-8-8** to access bilingual, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate suicide prevention support. The service is available 24/7/365 and is also a resource for those worried about someone close to them.

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**Every youth deserves a S.P.A.C.E. (Safe Place for ALL to Create and Express)** where their imagination is celebrated exactly as it is. Our art program for neurodivergent children and youth is about expression, curiosity, and joy! We're endlessly inspired by their creativity and so grateful to witness the magic that happens when children and youth are given the freedom, support, and encouragement to be fully themselves.

For more information about our S.P.A.C.E. program, please reach out to Include Me! at [includemeav@gmail.com](mailto:includemeav@gmail.com). Include Me! is a registered non-profit. We are a volunteer group made up of parents and caregivers working together to provide support, community and inclusive opportunities for neurodivergent children, teens and adults and their families living in the Annapolis Valley.

The **Annapolis County Community Grants Program** is now open and accepting applications. Funding is available for community facilities and projects that strengthen well-being and bring people together.  
Community Facilities: up to \$20,000  
Community Projects: up to \$5,000  
Deadline is April 1, 2026 (no exceptions)  
Eligible applicants include registered charities and not-for-profit organizations. Find details and apply online at <https://annapoliscounty.ca>

Getting to Know: Amazing  
Grace Baptist Church

So many folks say there is so many people at that Church or how come they are there so often. I thought I would give a quick insight into the month of January. We have had our mid-winter revival where special preachers come in and there is a lot of singing and learning from the King James Bible.

On Jan. 20 we are going to have a senior get together with pizza and fellowship and the last week of January the men will be going to a men’s conference again for fellowship, and discussion of everyday issues and how best God can work in your life.

As most of you folks know we have Sunday school for young and old at 10:00, we have morning service at 11:00 and more often than not we have a lunch potluck and services at either Grace Haven or Mountain Lea on Sunday afternoons. And we have a service at 5:00 pm Sundays with singing and learning more about the bible. All of this is mixed in with organized hockey, youth group at the Lawrencetown school gym on January 23 and of course prayer meeting always on Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Every month that there are 5 Sundays we meet with other independent Baptist churches for fellowship, food, fun and spiritual instruction.

There are so many things planned for all age groups ranging from the little fella that is 1 to the old fella that is 80.

Everyone is welcome to join us ....come and see what you are missing.

There next update will be things that are coming up not what have happened. I just wanted a chance to spread the enthusiasm of the church. (submitted by Maureen Publow)



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COUNTY of ANnapolis  
NATURALLY ROOTED

### Employment Opportunity

#### Facility and Parks Labourer

Permanent Full-time

The County of Annapolis is currently seeking a Facility and Parks Labourer to join our team! This is an opportunity to work amongst the breathtaking natural beauty of the Bay of Fundy shoreline and the lush Annapolis River, where you will be captivated by coastal communities, towns, village, historic properties and stunning parks that are the pride of our county. Annapolis County is an ideal location to live, work and play.

The Facility and Parks Labourer is responsible for the day-to-day operation, maintenance and care of the arena, pool and parks within the Town of Bridgetown. This role includes ice making and maintenance, janitorial and minor facility repairs, operation of ice-making and building maintenance equipment and setup and take down for recreation program and events. Reporting to the Lead Hand and Manager of Municipal Operations, this position supports arena operations on a seasonal basis and plays a key role in ensuring facilities are safe, clean and welcoming for public use.

The Facility and Parks Labourer shall be a member of CUPE Local 4549.

**Qualifications:**

Candidates for this position must possess as a minimum, Grade 12 education, first aid/CPR and a valid class 5 Nova Scotia Driver’s licence as well as 2 years related experience in ice making, janitorial and facilities maintenance. Previous experience in a municipal, government setting would be considered an asset. Candidates will hold or be willing to obtain: Pool Operator certification, Second Class Refrigeration Plant Operator certification or Playground Inspector certification.

A complete Job description can be found on our website: [www.AnnapolisCounty.ca](http://www.AnnapolisCounty.ca)

**This employment competition will close on February 15, 2026 at 4:00PM**

Rachael Browne, Administrative Clerk  
(902) 955-0771  
Email: [employment@annapoliscounty.ca](mailto:employment@annapoliscounty.ca)  
Municipality of the County of Annapolis  
PO Box 100 (752 St. George St)  
Annapolis Royal, NS B0S 1A0

**Applications will not be accepted via Social Media (Facebook)**  
The County of Annapolis thanks all those for applying but only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.  
[www.AnnapolisCounty.ca](http://www.AnnapolisCounty.ca)



COUNTY of ANnapolis  
NATURALLY ROOTED

### Employment Opportunity

#### General Labourer (Bridgetown)

Permanent Full-time

The County of Annapolis is currently seeking a General Labourer to join our Bridgetown team! This is an opportunity to work amongst the breathtaking natural beauty of the Bay of Fundy shoreline and the lush Annapolis River, where you will be captivated by coastal communities, towns, village, historic properties and stunning parks that are the pride of our county. Annapolis County is an ideal location to live, work and play.

The General Labourer provides facility maintenance, upgrading and repair support services for water, wastewater, streets and drainage systems, trails and other buildings and facilities owned and operated by the County of Annapolis as and when required. This position will also assist with maintaining and repairing mechanical, electrical and instrumentation equipment.

The General Labourer shall be a member of CUPE Local 4549.

**Qualifications:**

Candidates for this position must possess as a minimum, Grade 12 education and a valid class 5 Nova Scotia Driver’s licence.

Due to the nature of this position, the employee must have good communication, problem solving, decision making, critical thinking, job task planning and organization skills. Employees must be able to lift up to 23 kilograms and must be willing to obtain and maintain a variety of training certifications related to the position. This position will occasionally require work outside of normal office hours including evenings, weekends and holidays. The employee must be available to respond to urgent calls in adverse and variable weather conditions.

A complete Job description can be found on our website: [www.AnnapolisCounty.ca](http://www.AnnapolisCounty.ca)

**This employment competition will close on February 5, 2026 at 4:00PM**

Rachael Browne, Administrative Clerk  
(902) 955-0771  
Email: [employment@annapoliscounty.ca](mailto:employment@annapoliscounty.ca)  
Municipality of the County of Annapolis  
PO Box 100 (752 St. George St)  
Annapolis Royal, NS B0S 1A0

**Applications will not be accepted via Social Media (Facebook)**  
The County of Annapolis thanks all those for applying but only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.  
[www.AnnapolisCounty.ca](http://www.AnnapolisCounty.ca)



West Dalhousie Wildfire After Action Report

At the COTW meeting January 13, Annapolis County municipal staff presented council with a report on the municipal response to last summer's destructive Long Lake / West Dalhousie wildfire. The report's purpose is to provide a critical analysis of the response from the municipality's perspective and does not review the actions of the fire departments that battled the blaze.

The wildfire that grew to nearly 8,500 hectares in size, destroyed 20 homes and forced hundreds of people to flee in the West Dalhousie area in August.

"It gives us an opportunity to take a step back and look at what went well and what we would try and improve on, you know, if we ever had the unfortunate incident of being in that situation again," Chief Administration Officer Rob Frost, who compiled the report, told CBC News.

The report characterizes the county response as "very good" overall but saw communication between agencies and staff burnout as areas for improvement. Comments and feedback from affected residents will be added later. The 16 page report is available as part of the agenda package for the Jan. 13 meeting on the county's website, [www.annapoliscounty.ca](http://www.annapoliscounty.ca) and can also be viewed and downloaded on The Bridgetown Reader site, [www.bridgetownreader.news](http://www.bridgetownreader.news)



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“Getting to Know”...You!

You are invited to send us a short piece about your business or organization. The Bridgetown Reader welcomes articles of up to 500 or so words that would introduce you to the community; we call these stories “Getting to Know...” and they are free for one-time inclusion. Whether your business or group is large or small, we want to help spread the word about what you do, where you are, and how people can get in touch with you. Let us hear from you. Reach us through the contact form at [www.bridgetownreader.news](http://www.bridgetownreader.news), through Facebook/ Bridgetown Reader, email [readerpublishing@outlook.com](mailto:readerpublishing@outlook.com) or call or text 902-824-0412.

## WEASY’S HAIR SALON

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- Thank you to everyone for your patience and support. As a one-person salon, I stay busy and do my best to return calls in a timely manner. To remain on schedule and give each client my full attention, I often allow calls to go to voicemail. I truly appreciate you leaving a message and understanding — it helps me keep things running smoothly for everyone.
- NEW bunch of Pens have finally arrived, drop in to pick up yours!
- The retail section is full plus a couple new Hempz lotions (that are reasonably priced)

**Anna/Royal-** The Potting Shed Flowers and Plants are moving their way around the block (literally). The new location will be at 208 St. George Street! Across from the King's Theatre. More details will be posted soon with our official moving date. All contact info will remain the same. Looking forward to serving you as always

**Anna/Royal-** The Red Onion has some new winter hours. They will be open Tuesdays to Saturdays 9 am - 5 pm, taking Sunday & Mondays off. Come spring they plan to be back to 7 days a week.

**Bridgetown-** Valentine's Dance Sat Feb 14th 8 pm - 1 am, at Royal Canadian Legion Br #33.\$15 at the door. Cash Bar, debit machine available, credit cards not accepted. Tickets call 902-665-2820 Music starts at 9 pm with Joker's Right.

**Garbage collection update:** For all those areas missed Jan 17th, because of weather, you will receive double collection limits on your next scheduled collection day, which is January 30th. We will follow up with residents who we've been unable to reach during the last two collections. Please call the hotline at 902-679-1325 and leave your name, address, and phone number. Thank you. This was posted on the app(shared on Bridgetown forum)

**Granville Ferry-** Champlain Elementary School has partnered with the Enviro-depot to help fund school programs. When you drop off your recyclables, you can now place your refund in the donation jar on the counter. Questions? Email us at [CESHomeandSchool@gmail.com](mailto:CESHomeandSchool@gmail.com).

**Hillsburn-Crow's Nest** is **HIRING-** Server and kitchen staff. Resumes can be emailed to [shoreroadseafood@gmail.com](mailto:shoreroadseafood@gmail.com), sent through private message , or dropped off at #3931 Shore Rd West., Hillsburn

**Lunns Mill Beer Company-** a Valentine's celebration with great food, local beer & a cause close to our hearts. Sunday February 15th from 12 - 3 pm. Treat your partner, best friend, or favorite human to a Valentine's brunch experience- all while supporting Thalia Barn Cat Rescue. \$100 a couple. Also 50/50 Draw, Raffles , Sponsor - A- Paw, Fun, lighthearted cat themed trivia with prizes .Must be purchased in advance at [www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/pints-and-purrs-valentines-brunch](http://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/pints-and-purrs-valentines-brunch).

**Private Home Care-** Bridgetown and surrounding areas by Sarah Chute. Flexible scheduling 902-955-7612 or [sarahchute@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahchute@hotmail.com). Our services include Respectful, individualized support focused on dignity, safety, independence, and quality of life. Companionship & Supervision, Personal Care, Meal Prep & housecleaning, medication reminders (references available upon request)

**Upper Clements Cottages** want your Christmas trees for their goats.

**West Dalhousie-** clothing giveaway on Friday Jan 23rd, 4 - 8 pm, Sat Jan 24th 10 - 3 pm, FREE Jamie-style “Arby's” meal! Including curly fries! Saturday at noon. Clothes for men, women and kids Household items available too\*\* Sponsored by Annapolis Valley Frugal Moms. Located at #4868 West Dalhousie Road.

To register for FREE, All -ages Art group, for residents of the West Dalhousie Community, Sessions are led by Art Professional Art Therapists, Nika Peters and Jaime Lee Lightle. To register, please contact [nika@fireflyarttherapy.com](mailto:nika@fireflyarttherapy.com), Next session is Sat Jan 31st(fall) 1 pm - 3:30 pm. Sat Feb 14th(Winter)same time) and Sat Feb 28th(Spring). (Summer was already held on Jan 17th.)

# Page 11

## SOOFSTOCK Presents

Performances By  
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Saturday, February 21st  
2 - 5 PM  
Macdonald Museum,  
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Pay What You Can  
(Suggested \$20)





## Happy Valentine's Day

### Cupid Candy Gram!



Do you have a friend or family member working in, or staying here at the Soldiers Memorial Hospital?

Why not remember them on *Valentine's Day* with a **Cupid Candy Gram?** *(gift bag of sweets)*



To do so, go to the *Carousel Gift Shop* at the SM Hospital between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily Monday to Friday where you will complete an information card (recipient's name and location in SMH), pay the \$5 fee (cash only), complete the message tag, and the Auxiliary members will deliver your **Cupid Candy Gram** on or before **Valentine's Day**.

*You may also send it Anonymously.*

**Ideliveries within SM Hospital, Primary Care Clinic, and Middleton & Area Family Medical only]**

*Cost: Only \$5.00 (Cash)*

**Deadline to order - Friday Feb. 6/26**

*Proceeds go to SMH Auxiliary projects!*

**2026 Annapolis County Community Events Guide Submission Process** In preparation for our 2026 Annapolis County Community Events Guide, submissions of County events are now being accepted online! The online form guides you through the process to ensure all required information is included, such as the name, contact person, date and time of the event. In addition, there is also a space available to provide a short description of your event. The form is available at [www.annapoliscounty.ca](http://www.annapoliscounty.ca)

Event Submission Deadline: Friday, February 11, 2026, 4:30 pm

\*Please try and keep descriptions at a maximum of approx. 150 words to accommodate for all submitted events. Descriptions that exceed the maximum word allowance may be edited for space purposes.

Submit a photo and it may be chosen to be published in the 2026 Annapolis County Community Events Guide! Submit your best photo(s) online about Annapolis County! Photos submitted should be in the .jpg format and be a minimum of 150 DPI to a maximum of 300 and include the person or group who submitted the photo(s). Please email photo(s) to [guide@annapoliscounty.ca](mailto:guide@annapoliscounty.ca)



## Bulletin Board

**Looking for something? Buying, selling, giving away, renting? Listings are free. Email [readerpublishing@outlook.com](mailto:readerpublishing@outlook.com) call or text 902-824-0412 or use the contact forms at [www.bridgetownreader.news](http://www.bridgetownreader.news)**

**Needed:** Someone to help me with a crochet pattern, Bridgetown area. 902-266-8246

**For Sale:** DeWalt 682 Plate Joiner Kit. Never used and still in carrying case. Valued now around \$400 and selling for \$150. 902-532-8688

**Wanted:** Hard shell dog carrier appropriate for a large breed dog (German shepherd). Call 902-532-8301

**Looking For:** Winter dog vest for large dog. Also wanted woman's winter boots, size 10 or 11. Annapolis Royal area. 902-532-8201

**For Sale:** 1999 Sunfire convertible, auto. Never driven in winter 88,000 km. Excellent condition. Asking \$6,000. 902-245-3697

**For Sale:** Knit Afghans, Rippling Waves pattern, 4' x 5'. Also, several handmade quilts for double bed. 902-825-6826

**HOMETOWN HANDYMAN** - 902.760.0121 - HTHAnnapolis@gmail.com -Home Repairs, Drywall, Painting, Home Electronics, Computer Repair!

**For Rent:** Available immediately, one bedroom apartment, central Bridgetown, no pets or smokers. Heat, hot and cold water, electricity included. \$1100 monthly. 902-308-3003

**For Rent:** 1 bedroom in private home in Bridgetown. Short term. No pets, no smoking. Prefer mature woman. Will need references. \$500. 902-309-1428

**For Rent:** Storage lockers available in Annapolis Royal. Secure. Easy access. Call 902-521-4986.

**Condo Available for Rental:** 2-bedroom, 2 bath condo at the Academy in Annapolis Royal, large deck, 6 appliances. Available Dec. 1st, \$1,600 per month plus power. Phone 902-532-8337.

**Looking to Buy:** Mandolin case. F shape. Must be in good condition. Contact 902-584-3370.

**For Sale:** 1 MainStays brand white window blind purchased at Walmart, venetian style with slats size 36" wide and 48" long, never used. Purchased too short length, needed 60" length. Box, instructions and hardware included. Original price \$29.79 before taxes, asking \$25 - no tax. Phone: 902-665-4372

**For Sale:** Yamaha PSR 299 full keyboard with stand. Great condition. Paid \$800, asking \$500 or best offer. Three pairs men's cowboy boots, size 7. 902-825-4523

**Seeking Estates & Quality Items for Our Spring**

**Antique Auction:** We are now accepting estates, partial estates, and individual quality items for our upcoming Spring Auction at the Annapolis Royal Firehall. If you have antiques or collectibles you're considering selling, we can help.

We handle everything — professional photography, cataloguing, advertising, and a full auction service — ensuring your items reach motivated buyers. We are currently looking for: Fine furniture; Artwork, Paintings and prints; Decorative items; Clocks, glassware, china & unique curiosities; Collections of all kinds. No obligation consultations. No reserves — everything will sell to the highest bidder. To discuss consigning your items or estate, please contact: Russell — 709-689-2794, [russell@maregold.com](mailto:russell@maregold.com)

**Community Pantry:** St. George and St. Andrew United Church, 393 St. George St. in Annapolis Royal (by the traffic lights) has set up a Community Pantry for those who may be in need. Please, take what you need, or leave what you can. Food, toiletries, outerwear, pet food, and/or cleaning supplies may be available. Please note that due to the winter weather, canned goods in water are not recommended.



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**For Sale:** 4 winter tires mounted on rims with low mileage. Includes the sensors. They fit a Ford Ecosport car. I would like \$400 for them. (902) 824-0089.



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**Heart Services:** We can help with Laundry, Cooking and meal preparation, Shopping needs, Pet care, Organization and much more....Price range varies from \$20 to \$30 per hour depending on needs. Call me anytime to discuss, ask for Tracy at 902-955-9888 or email [tracy.bulley@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.bulley@gmail.com)

**All Seasons Landscaping and Property Maintenance.** Landscaping, Mowing & Whipping, Spring/fall clean ups, Interior/exterior painting, Odd jobs, Car detailing. Call or text: 902-532-8183 Email: [mcleodmike1@icloud.com](mailto:mcleodmike1@icloud.com)

**Handyman Services:** From Berwick to Bridgetown! Lawncare - Ride on Tractor, push mower and trimmers provided. Light Home Repairs inside and out. Power Washing & Painting. Security checks on your property when you are away. Reasonable and Negotiable prices depending on the job. Call James 902 760 3128

**CCA Offering Private Home Care:** My name is Linda Hatt and I'm an in-home private caregiver, I am a certified CCA. I have amazing references, who speak highly of the work I do. So if you have a loved one you want to keep at home rather than put in a nursing home, I would love to help with that. I'm looking for work in the area between Middleton-Greenwood and prefer respite, personal care and meal prep. Maybe you're the full-time caregiver and you just need a break. I absolutely have no problem coming into your home and sitting and just keeping your loved one company, Days only. Starting at \$25 an hour. Please call 902 848-6342 or email: [lindahatt101@gmail.com](mailto:lindahatt101@gmail.com)

At **Randy's Wood Products** in Bear River, we sell interior wood trim, doors, and custom woodwork like butcher block countertops. Plus, as a Dulux Paint dealer, we're a one-stop shop for quality materials and expert advice. 924 Mary Jane Riley Road, Bear River. 902-247-0524.

**K-12 Math/Science Tutoring:** Professional engineer offering virtual and in-person tutoring within Digby and Annapolis counties. Flexible rates available. Inquiries can be sent to [ns.stem.tutor@protonmail.com](mailto:ns.stem.tutor@protonmail.com).

**For Sale:** Utility trailer. 4'2" x 8' New tires wheels, and bearings. Also has a loading ramp and is in good condition. Asking \$1400 obo. Call 902-526-0455

**Looking to Buy:** Used golf carts - Yamaha, Club Car, EZ-Go. 902-245-2475

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**Wanted:** Small (appr. 9" x 5") DVD player which opens up to a screen and DVD placement. You might have one in a closet? Call Sarah Pavia at 902-532-0370 in Annapolis Royal & hope it won't be too difficult to get to where you are.

**Sports Cards and Collectibles For Sale:** All sports cards, signed collectibles, figurines, magazines, jerseys and tons more. Located in Port Wade- ten mins up Granville Road from Annapolis Royal. Contact John/Rebekka at 604-809-2201.Call or text anytime to arrange to come up.

**For Sale:** Moss. 500 20ga., good shape. \$350.  
Text 902-824-1849.

**For Sale:** Savage 24 series "S", 22LR/20ga. \$750.  
Text 902-824-1849.

**Looking to Buy:** Mobile home in good condition that can be moved. Larger the better. 902-309-1299.

**Community of Clarence Bottle Drive:** The Community of Clarence continues to ask people to donate their refundable bottles behind the Meeting House, 2659 Clarence Road or in front of the barn across from 2847 Clarence Road. All proceeds go towards continued restoration of community buildings and community activities For inquiries please email - [inquiries.clarencecommunity@gmail.com](mailto:inquiries.clarencecommunity@gmail.com) or call 902-824-3181.

**For Sale:** ATV SNOWTRACKS Commoplast T4S System. 3 mounting kits for various ATV's included. Rarely used, no visible wear. \$2500. No tax. Contact 902-638-3376 or [email..marilynruith52@gmail.com](mailto:email..marilynruith52@gmail.com)

**Wanted:** We are buying scrap gold, silver, old coins and collections. Top dollar paid. Over 40 years' experience and professional testing equipment. Please call to set up an appointment at our shop or always happy to do house calls. Call Stephen or Jacqueline at 902-308-0594

**Wanted:** We are accepting quality consignments for our upcoming antique and collectible auctions. We do house calls or accept drop offs at our shop. Please call Stephen at 902-308-0594 or check our website at [harrisandsonsauctions.com](http://harrisandsonsauctions.com)

**For Sale:** Deer hunting scope, IOR Bucuresty. 2.5 x10-42 mm with 30mm tube. European style focus on eye piece & fixed parallax at 100 yds. Reticule ,7A & adj, MOA. \$450. Target scope, Leupold Vari-x3. 6.5 x 20 -40 mm, one inch tube. Forward parallax adjustment & Target Knobs with plex cross hair. \$450. If interested contact, [hloegler@outlook.com](mailto:hloegler@outlook.com) or Ph. 902 825-1545.

**Free Piano!** Classic Upright Kingston Wormwith Piano (built circa 1907-1919) Piano needs tuning. In private home in Annapolis Royal. Must come to pick up. Please call 902-340-1849.

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**Community Events, News, Business Notes, Rentals, and Bulletin Board items are all FREE.** Call or text 902-824-0412, email us at [readerpublishing@outlook.com](mailto:readerpublishing@outlook.com) message us on Facebook or use the contact form at [www.bridgetownreader.news](http://www.bridgetownreader.news).

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NS Auditor Releases Report

Nova Scotia’s annual spending has grown steadily since 2020-21 and is now \$18 billion annually, up \$5.4 billion and 43 per cent, Auditor General Kim Adair says in her 2025 Financial Report.

Nova Scotia’s net debt is also growing. Even with a history of recent surpluses including the audited \$265 million surplus, the Province’s net debt is up \$1.7 billion from the previous year and was \$20.8 billion at the end of fiscal 2024-25.

“A trend of increased net debt weakens a government’s financial position because more of its future revenues will be needed to pay its past debts. That could negatively impact the ability to provide provincial services without resorting to additional borrowing,” Adair says.

Key to the \$1.7 billion increase in the year’s net debt were the capital investments in various health facility projects, including \$361 million in the Halifax Infirmary Expansion and \$146 million for Cape Breton Healthcare Redevelopment. There was also an investment of \$325 million for the province’s long-term care facilities including nursing homes.

Service agreements with the nursing home operators, worth \$15.7 billion at the end of 2024-25, are one of the major contributors to an increase in Nova Scotia’s contractual obligations, also known as spending commitments. Over the past five years, Nova Scotia’s total future spending commitments have continued to increase, growing from \$9.8 billion in 2020-21 to \$29.7 billion in 2024-25.

Nova Scotia’s unmatured debt, which now stands at \$19.3 billion, is also increasing. Paying down debt will take up a significant portion of the province’s revenues in both the short and long term.

The interest on debt for 2024-25 was \$756 million; an increase of \$207 million from the five-year low of \$549 million in 2021-22. Those debt servicing costs currently stand at \$810 per Nova Scotian, the highest of the past five years. The Auditor General continues to caution that significant uncertainty has impacted the Province’s revenue estimates.

“Total revenue has exceeded the budgeted amount for four of the past five years by \$5.8 billion and the Province appears to have used the increased revenue to advance additional spending.”

The Auditor General has been highlighting additional appropriation spending in the annual Financial Report since 2022.

Over the last five years, the Province has spent \$6.7 billion in this over-budget spending, with \$1.6 billion in 2024-25 alone.

“Although I noted accountability and transparency around over-budget spending improved slightly this year, I am concerned that important recommendations remain unaddressed,” said Adair.



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The Annual Financial Report has two chapters and provides insights into topics of interest impacting the Province including:

**Healthcare Costs Up Over Five Years:** Nova Scotia’s annual healthcare operating expenses were \$7.7 billion in 2024-25, an increase of \$2.4 billion over the last five years

**Tobacco Settlement:** The Province may receive up to \$784.8 million over 20 years from Canadian tobacco companies to help offset costs of smoking on the healthcare system

**The Province Purchased \$117 Million of Receivables from Nova Scotia Power:** To ease rising electricity rates and prevent a significant rate increase for customers, the Province spent \$117 million to purchase receivables from the utility

**Impact of Removing Bridge Tolls:** Annual toll revenue of roughly \$25-37 million is no longer being collected; Province is now responsible for future capital and operating expenses for both Halifax Harbour bridges, which averaged \$29 million a year for the past five years

**Government Received a Clean Audit Opinion on its Financial Statements:** The Government provided reliable financial information for 2024-25 within the legislated deadline. For the 25th year in a row, the Province of Nova Scotia received a clean audit opinion. That audit opinion means that the decision makers in Government, and all Nova Scotians, have assurance that they can rely on the financial statements.

While the financial statements are reliable and many processes work well, underlying significant control weaknesses at two Government departments and two Government organizations need to be fixed. Significant control weaknesses increase the risk of unreliable financial reporting and misuse of assets in the future.



**Parish of Annapolis  
Annapolis Royal, NS**

**340 St. George St.  
Annapolis Royal**

**Sunday, January 25,  
10:00AM**  
**Wednesday January 28,  
10:00AM**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
**Sunday, January 25, 5:00PM**  
**Choral Evensong**  
**Celebrant & Preacher**  
**Father Jordan Draper**  
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our affirming Church.*  
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Parish of Annapolis**  
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**annapolis.parish@eastlink.ca**

Medal of Bravery  
Recipients

Four deserving Nova Scotians were awarded the Province’s highest recognition for bravery at a ceremony today, January 15, in Halifax. Premier Tim Houston awarded the Nova Scotia Medal of Bravery to:

- Gerrid Hunt, Lower Sackville
- Richard MacPhee, Boularderie, Cape Breton Regional Municipality
- Ryan O’Shea, Sydney
- Scott Rafuse, Sydney.

About the recipients and their acts of bravery:

On January 11, 2025, Gerrid Hunt was alerted by his daughter that their neighbour’s home was on fire. When Mr. Hunt learned that a man and three children were still inside, he entered the smoke-filled home on his hands and knees, feeling around until he found an unconscious man who he was able to drag to safety. The man, his wife and a young child survived; tragically, three other children did not. The Hunt family also lost their home in the blaze.

On February 14, 2025, Richard MacPhee, Ryan O’Shea and Scott Rafuse learned that two fellow snowmobilers had not returned from a trip in the Cape Breton Highlands. With conditions deteriorating and knowing the trails, they decided to search that evening. They found one of the men after a difficult search and assisted him until he was able to get to safety. They later joined the major search-and-rescue operation that was underway and helped find the other man.



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| #1002                                                                                               | Business Card         | 2" H x 3-1/4" W     | \$6.50   |
| #1003                                                                                               | Horizontal            | 2" H x 5" W         | \$10.00  |
| #1004                                                                                               | Vertical              | 4" H x 3-1/4" W     | \$14.00  |
| #1005                                                                                               | Square                | 4" H x 4" W         | \$16.50  |
| #1006                                                                                               | Horizontal            | 4" H x 6" W         | \$24.00  |
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| #1008                                                                                               | Vertical              | 8" H x 6.5" W       | \$52.00  |
| #1009                                                                                               | Horizontal            | 3-1/4" H x 4" W     | \$14.00  |
| #1010                                                                                               | Horizontal            | 2" H x 4" W         | \$8.00   |
| #1011                                                                                               | Vertical              | 4" H x 2-1/2" W     | \$10.00  |
| #1012                                                                                               | Vertical              | 6" H x 3-1/4" W     | \$19.50  |
| #1013                                                                                               | Horizontal / Vertical | 4" x 5"             | \$20.00  |
| #1014                                                                                               | Square                | 5" x 5"             | \$25.00  |
| #1015                                                                                               | Quarter Page          | 8" H x 5" W         | \$40.00  |
| #1018                                                                                               | Ex. Business Card     | 3" H x 3-1/4" W     | \$10.00  |
| #1025                                                                                               | Half Page             | 8" H x 10-1/4" W    | \$84.00  |
| #1026                                                                                               | Full Page             | 16" H x 10-1/4" W   | \$165.00 |
| We will gladly quote non-standard sizes. There is a 15% discount for 8 or more ads paid in advance. |                       |                     |          |

**“VIA Rail - Halifax to Montreal” Word Search Answer**

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Irving Oil  
Double D Convenience, Café & Bakery  
Weasy’s Hair Salon  
Fraser’s Pro Home Centre

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**Legion**

*Sunday January 25th @ 3.30pm  
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*2 Teams of 2 will be picked to enter the  
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*Come as a pair or show up and be paired  
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**Who “HAS TO PILFER?” Rearrange the letters to form a two word answer.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**What does “STEALTHY” mean?**  
**Answer: AT THE SLY**

**“Phantoms” Cryptoquote Answer:**

When I look back on these worries, I remember the story of the old man who said on his deathbed that he had had a lot of trouble in his life, most of which had never happened. -- Winston Churchill

**Anagrams Answers Puzzle 2**

Rearrange all the letters of each word to form another common English word.

Cart horse - Orchestra  
Caution - Auction  
Egret - Greet  
Esquire - Queries  
Insisted - Tidiness  
Loyal - Alloy  
Mortise - Moister  
Needless - Lessened  
Noblesse - Boneless  
Recourse - Resource

**“VIA Rail – Montreal to Toronto” Word Search Puzzle**

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Montreal     | Dorval     |
| Coteau       | Alexandria |
| Casselman    | Ottawa     |
| Smiths Falls | Ganonoque  |
| Kingston     | Napanee    |
| Belleville   | Coburg     |
| Port Hope    | Oshawa     |
| Guildwood    | Toronto    |

*Find the word or phrase in the puzzle. Words can share letters as they cross over each other. Answer next week.*

**Anagrams Puzzle 3**

Rearrange all the letters of each word to form another common English word. Answers next week.

Amherst - \_\_\_\_\_  
Coteries - \_\_\_\_\_  
Gustave - \_\_\_\_\_  
Height - \_\_\_\_\_  
Hotel suite - \_\_\_\_\_  
Metering - \_\_\_\_\_  
Minnesota - \_\_\_\_\_  
Percussion - \_\_\_\_\_  
Rambled - \_\_\_\_\_  
Scalloped - \_\_\_\_\_

**“Beg Pardon?” Cryptoquote: Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter. Answer next week.**

|   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| A | B | C | D | E | F  | G  | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z  |
|   |   |   |   |   | 14 | 16 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |   |   | 9 | 4 |   |   |   | 20 |



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What’s happening NOW in the woods

On November 30th, Save Our Old Forests president, Nina Newington set up Camp NOW on the side of a logging road in the proposed Goldsmith Lake Wilderness Area. NOW stands for Need Our Wilderness. She and others had recently found fresh flagging on the peninsula between Corbett and Dalhousie Lakes, indicating that WestFor intended to go ahead with logging this part of the proposed wilderness area. Camp NOW is protesting the government’s failure to protect Goldsmith, and, more generally, the miniscule progress the government has made in meeting their legal commitment to protect 20% of our lands and waters by 2030.

Coincidentally, a few days later, DNR made public their plans to clearcut 31 hectares inside the proposed Goldsmith Lake Wilderness Area. That was jolting enough. But it wasn’t just this area. Clearcut plans were announced for many of the other wilderness areas citizens have proposed for protection, including 79 ha in the expansion proposed for the Lamb’s Lake Nature Reserve next to Mickey Hill Provincial Park.

Worse still, the plans go beyond clearcutting. DNR wants to establish these sites as permanent High Production Forestry sites – industrial tree farms sprayed with glyphosate to kill off the hardwoods that naturally regrow in Nova Scotia after clearcutting. The intent is to create pure softwood stands all the same age that will be clearcut again in 30-50 years. Rinse and repeat. Supposing our climate doesn’t heat up too much for these cold-loving species. This type of managed forest is the least biodiverse, most fire-prone type of forest there is.

Biodiversity simply means the variety of life. Old-growth natural forests support the greatest variety of life because they have been forests for a very long time. During that time, they have developed structural complexity, aka lots of nooks and crannies. Their complexity makes them more diverse and more resilient. The loss of this complexity of life, thanks to the replacement of old forests with young ones (forest degradation) as well as deforestation (more of an issue in other parts of the world), will lead to the collapse of crucial ecosystems, the natural systems we depend on for clean water and air to breathe. Biodiversity loss compounds the dangers of climate breakdown. That’s why, in 2023 in Montreal, the countries of the world agreed to protect 30% of their lands and waters by 2030. Protecting biodiversity is not a ‘nice to have’, it is essential if we want a livable planet.

DNR itself recognizes that High Production Forestry destroys biodiversity. They are supposed to have screened all the potential sites identified for this type of forestry on Crown land and dropped any with high biodiversity. But DNR has an abysmal track record for identifying key indicators of biodiversity value. When some of us hiked in to check out the Goldsmith site DNR wants to clearcut, we found 3 endangered Black Ash trees and 13 Species at Risk lichens as well as huge old pine trees. All that close to streams and a river where the endangered Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon have been documented. Our discoveries come as no big surprise. In the proposed Goldsmith Lake Wilderness Area as a whole, we have identified 63 Species at Risk occurrences affecting cutblocks DNR approved for logging. DNR found none.

The main Species at Risk we have found in an extraordinary concentration at Goldsmith, the Frosted Glass Whiskers lichen, takes a very long time to establish – think 100 years. In other words, it requires old forest, the sort of forest that also supports many, many other lifeforms. The places where you find it should be protected, not just to save this lichen but because these places are likely to support many other forms of life too.

So why is DNR proposing the most destructive form of forestry there is for areas citizens have identified as being ecologically valuable enough to be worth protecting? The Goldsmith area certainly meets all the criteria outlined in the ‘Collaborative Protected Areas Strategy: An Action Plan for Achieving 20%.’ The province published that strategy just over two years ago. What has changed? Is the forestry industry so short of wood that we can’t do our modest bit towards meeting that global target of protecting 30% by 2030?

Well no. This Monday morning on CBC, Todd Burgess, head of Forest Nova Scotia, the forestry industry’s mouthpiece, said there was no shortage of wood in Nova Scotia. He saw no reason we could not manage both conservation and forestry. Government affirms that they are still committed to protecting 20%. But they are doing less than nothing to meet their own goal.

Last April it looked as if we were making progress in getting the Goldsmith Lake Wilderness Area formally protected. MLA David Bowlby sent out a letter to constituents who’d been asking for his help with this. The letter indicated that the area was being formally evaluated for protection. That was exciting news. Formal evaluation is part of the established process by which an area is given permanent protection. But then the spokesperson for the PC caucus announced that MLA Bowlby had made a mistake. The area was not being formally evaluated after all.

The obvious question is, why not? In the wake of the discovery that DNR is planning to turn parts of both the Goldsmith Lake and the Lamb’s Lake/Mickey Hill proposed protected areas into High Production Forestry clearcut and spray sites, a lot of constituents will be asking MLA Bowlby that question. (submitted by Nina Newington - photos by Nina Newington and Karen Achenbach)

White pine 116 cm diameter at breast height (dbh)



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